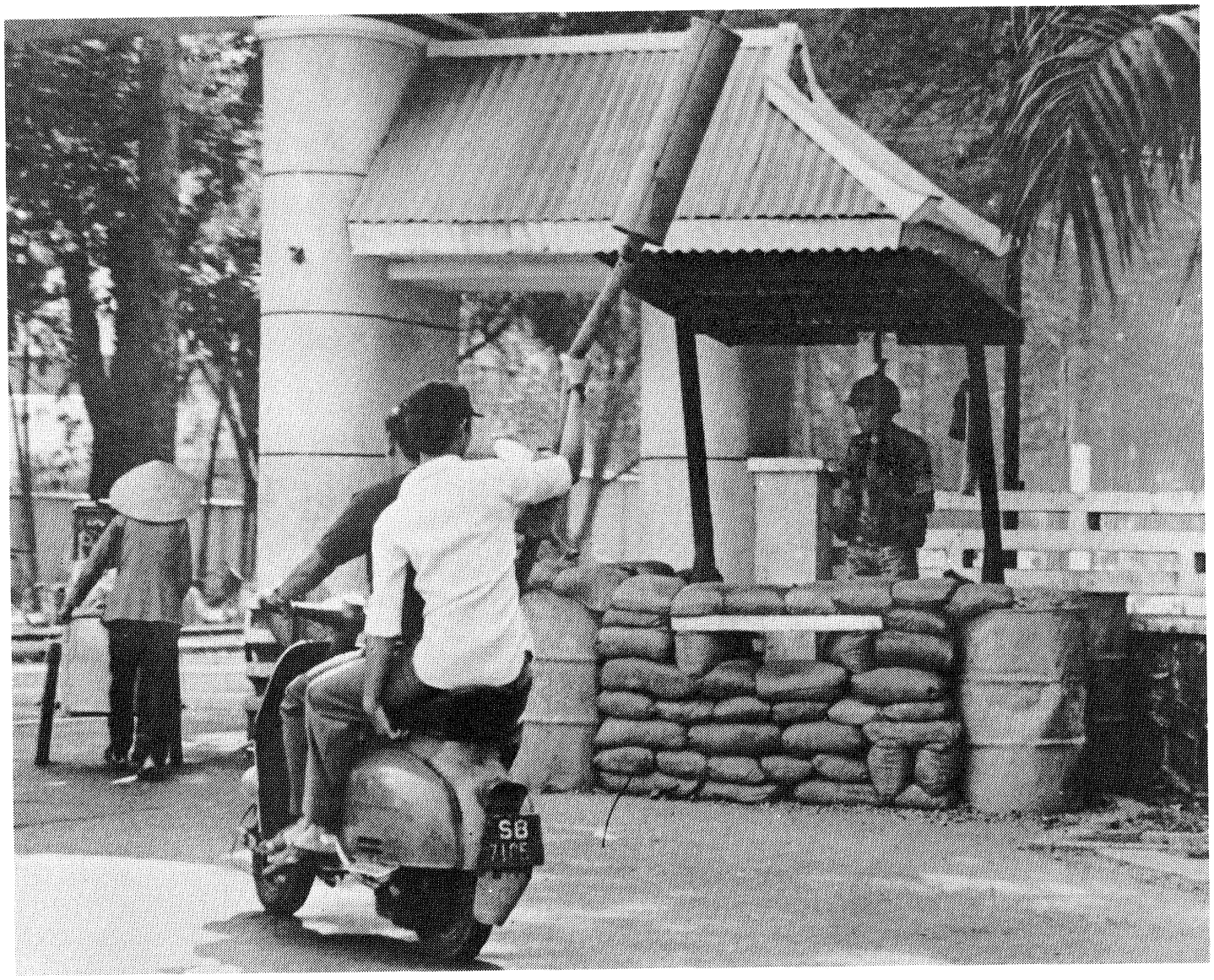

LNS

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COVER: Men riding Honda past Saigon police. Both Hondas and armed police are familiar sights in Saigon. CREDIT: Jayne Werner/LNS

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LIBERATION News Service
Packet #593
March 2, 1974

160 Claremont Avenue
New York, New York 10027
Phone: (212) 749-2200

Second Class Postage
Paid at New York, NY

Copyright c.1974 by LNS
News Service, Inc.

Published twice a week except for the last week in the month when it is published once a week. Subscriptions. $20 a month, $240 a year

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FARAH WORKERS WIN UNION RECOGNITION--continued from page 2

off workers and those still working. The results of the poll, received on February 22 (two days before the settlement) showed that 4,761 of the 7,703 workers included in the tally, or 67% of the workers had signed union cards.

Besides recognizing the union, Farah agreed to pay $30 a week to the 2000 striking workers until they are rehired. The union agreed to call off the boycott of Farah pants.

Contract negotiations will begin as soon as a union negotiating committee is elected. ACWA Murry Finley said that the union would seek a sizeable wage increase, new fringe benefits and a reasonable production standard at Farah.

Speedup is one of the large number of problems that led up to the strike. Rosa Flores dropped out of high school to help support her widowed mother and family. Her first full time job was cutting back-pockets at Farah. After a year she was earning $1.80 an hour and was producing 60 bundles a day. Management then insisted that she raise her production, promising a raise. She went from 60 to 70 bundles a day, then to 80 and 85. Finally she hit 90 but she never saw a trace of any pay raise.

One striker at El Paso's Gateway plant, quoted in the Guardian, an independent radical weekly, said that workers cited a wage increase as their most important demand. "Everyone's talking about bad wages," he said. The average take-home pay of a Farah worker is $69 a week. Wages begin at $1.70 an hour and often remain at that level.

Besides economic gains, many of the strikers feel the union should also take up social issues which affect the workers, 85% of whom are Chicano. "We thought when we went out on strike that our only enemy was Farah, but we found out it was also the press, the police, the businessmen, the whole state."

The striker in El Paso also said that "getting democratic representation will be the most important thing in the union. During the whole strike," he said, "there was never a procedure in meetings where workers could get up and speak to the issues. It was just the big shots speaking. We don't want any more paternalism down here. We got it from Farah and we don't want to get it from the union." --30--

IF YOU ARE MISSING A PAGE OR GET A BADLY PRINTED GRAPHIC, LET US KNOW AND WE'LL SEND YOU ANOTHER SOON.

[[illegible]phics to go with the following story.]

HA[illegible] AND SAIGON: A RECENT VISITOR COMPARES [illegible]IFE AFTER THE PARIS AGREEMENTS

By Jayne Werner
LIBERATION News Service

(Editor's note: Jayne Werner returned to the U.S. in February after spending 10 days in Hanoi and a month in Saigon. A member of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars, Werner is now writing a doctoral dissertation on Vietnam for Cornell University. The following article is a slightly edited version of an article recording her impressions of the two cities. It was first published in the March 4 issue of American Report.)

The overpowering noise, congestion, rolls of barbed wire, piles of abondoned garbage and rows of hovels along the railroad tracks through the center of town stunned me as I entered Saigon just after spending 10 days in Hanoi. In Hanoi, whose 700,000 inhabitants have resumed their normal routines only a year after the halt of the bombing, traffic moves at a rapid pace--for bicycles--up to 12 kilometers an hour, I was told. I rarely saw motor bikes, and cars are reserved for those with important tasks or for foreign guests.

Saigon, on the other hand, is probably the most congested city in the Orient. It is hard to decide whether the noisome black emission from Hondas, taxis, jeeps and cars is worse than the din of horns, screeching brakes and muffler-less motors. Traffic moves much more slowly in Saigon. There are so many Hondas that they have reached the point of inefficiency.

A building down the street from my hotel in Hanoi, I finally realized, was a military office. There was a soldier in an unobtrusive guard tower outside a thick wall with two strands of barbed wire running on top, the most barbed wire I ever saw in Hanoi or in the entire country.

In Saigon, barbed wire is almost an architectural feature, integrated with the city landscape. Every street corner has a policeman who checks the ID cards of passersby, or an Army of the Republic of Vietnam (ARVN) rifleman behind a sandbagged fortification. I rarely saw police in Hanoi. Although there are many military men in both cities, soldiers in Hanoi do not carry weapons in public and seem to blend in with the general populace--whereas in Saigon the pervasive presence of armed soldiers, and especially police, give the strong impression that they serve as an instrument to awe and repress the population.

One large sign in downtown Hanoi is the Tet (lunar new year holidays) greeting from President Ton Duc Thanh: "The whole country with an eager heart joins together/To carry out with all its strength the tasks of the new stage/New Year, new victories." Ho Chi Minh's slogan "Nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" is written in large red letters on a building opposite a large department store; the slogan is probably the most widely displayed in Hanoi.

In contrast, the political signs adorning almost every block in downtown Saigon are mainly negative and threatening. The "Three Don'ts" sign is typical: "Don't sell rice to the Communists; Don't furnish sugar to the lower level Communist Organization; Don't let a Communist invasion happen again."

A visitor has the impression that Hanoi is a city very much insulated from the Western world. The abundance of technical, plastic and gaily colored commodities on sale on the streets of Saigon and Hong Kong are absent in Hanoi as are the glitter of neon lights, provocative shop displays and billboards exhibiting nubile models.

There are no sex-kittens decked out in mini skirts and the latest shimmering hose; the women in Hanoi look healthy and attractive in their plain clothing. There is a lack of frenzy, a feeling of a well-ordered society. People are poor only by the standards of contemporary Western consumer society.

The cleanliness of Hanoi and its well-fed and well-clothed inhavitants(though their clothing is worn and patched), contrast vividly with the predominantly dirty and unhealthy Saigon. Despite a show of abundance in Saigon, there is a poverty of essentials--not enough food to eat for all the population, no adequate shelter, clothing or employment (a Saigon newspaper recently reported that 2 million of 18 million Saigon-controlled South Vietnamese are out of work.)

Shacks line the railroad tracks and the pools of water between the tracks are open cesspools--latrines for the impoverished inhabitants. Although Hanoi is very poor after a long and costly war, I never once saw any hovels.

I learned that an average worker in Hanoi earns about $20 a month. Our interpreter told us that his wife, an elementary school teacher, with a few years experience, earns about $24 a month. Although a factory worker in Saigon, according to a recent New York Times article, earns about $22 a month, living expenses are greater and daily existence much more precarious.

For example, rice in Saigon now costs about 15¢ a pound, which means that one-fourth to one-third of a wage-earner's salary is used to supply a family with rice. In contrast, rice costs about 7¢ a pound in Hanoi. Rationing throughout the country assures an adequate monthly allotment for each family.

In Hanoi, housing costs 1% of a person's income, whereas it costs at least 10% and sometimes much more in Saigon. Although taxes are steep in both cities, Hanoi's inhabitants enjoy free medical care and education, both very costly in Saigon.

While I was in Saigon the piaster was devalued for the eight time in the space of a year. Inflation during 1973 had risen to 65%. People remarked that this year's Tet shoppers were much less numerous than last year's. When I was there, rice cost twice as much as it had the year before. In Hanoi, a kilogram of rice today costs what it did in 1965, and inflation in unknown.

While economic difficulties are present in Hanoi, huge disparities in income and life do not exist as in Saigon. Plush villas surrounded by barbed wire and the sheltered rich in their chauffered limousines simply are not seen in the North.

Saigon, not surprisingly, is plagued with a high crime rate. I never once feared robbery or attack in Hanoi whereas personal safety was a chief concern in Saigon. Its streets are filled with beggars and homeless children, some crippled and disfigured, roaming about selling newspapers or shining shoes. Pathetic beggars hang on to your arm if you're in a store or eating in a restaurant until you can't bear it any longer and give them a few piasters. No beggars or homeless children can be seen in Hanoi.

The feeling in Saigon is one of despair mixed with panic. Recent journalists' reports confirm that poor Vietnamese in Saigon are on the brink of starvation. During Tet someone threw a granade into the central market for no apparent reason, killing three persons. Shortly afterwards, in the middle of a demonstration of Vietnamese employees at the U.S. commissary, the wife of an American Embassy official lost control of herself and her car killed two people.

Everybody I talked to agreed that the deteriorating economic situation could not continue much longer without something drastic happening--what that would be depended upon whom I talked to. A student who had been jailed and tortured for translating an American book critical of the Thieu regime felt there would be a student revolt. An American missionary thought there would be food riots. A wealthy upperclass Vietnamese said a street vendor told him that if he could no longer feed his family he was going to get a gun and start shooting the rich.

The contrasting achievement of economic and social order in Hanoi seems all the more remarkable considering the destruction of the carpet bombing and the immense dislocations they caused. That the city has been able to avoid an epidemic or severe food shortage is little less than a miracle.

Hanoi--with its quiet streets full of busy people--seems to offer the visitor much more of a vision of hope for the future of Vietnam than Saigon. In Hanoi I felt a sense of spirit, a sense of moving forward, an appealing life based on thrift and simplicity. The atmosphere of stability pervaded economic life, family and social relationships and even religious and cultural traditions such as Tet.

Communism in Hanoi does not strike the visitor as being "atheistic" or hostile to cultural and family traditions. Much less does it appear to be"doctrinaire," "totalitarian," "rigidly disciplined," and "regimented." Rather, Vietnamese traditions seem to have been strengthened by the new ideology.

In Saigon, however, pervasive Western influence and dependence on American dollars have tended to undermine strong family relationships, contributed to social decadence and established competitive, greedy and individualistic values previously unacceptable in Vietnamese culture.

In many ways Hanoi represented to me, a feeling of being truly Vietnamese, untroubled by the problems the West has brought to so many Asian countries. No observor, I believe, can say the same of Saigon. The spirit and self-sacrifice of the people of Hanoi during an arduous but equally-shared war appear to be products of an admirable culture strengthened by Marxism.

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[See packet #567 for background on Farah strike.]

BOYCOTT ENDS AS WORKERS WIN UNION RECOGNITION AT FARAH

NEW YORK(LNS)-- The strike against the Farah Manufacturing Company, which began with a walkout in May, 1972, ended February 24 when the strikers won recognition of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America (ACWA) as their bargaining agent.

The strike, by Farah's mainly Mexican-American women workers, accompanied by a successful boycott, forced Farah to close four of its eight plants in the U.S. Farah is the largest manufacturer of men's slacks in the country. Its stock, once selling at more than $30 a share, dropped to a low of $3.25 and its profits went from $6 in 1971 to a loss of $8.4 million in 1972.

In 1970, workers at Farah's Gateway plant in El Paso decided to unionize. In response, Farah fired a number of union organizers. In spite of this workers voted to join the ACWA. Farah refused to recognize the union and fired more workers. All personal conversations were restricted during working hours and anyone wearing a union button was kept under constant surveillance. Workers were interrogated about union sympathizers and union material was confiscated.

Finally, at the beginning of May, 1972, workers in the San Antonio plant walked out, followed by workers at the other Farah plants. A few months later, the national boycott of Farah pants began.

The union filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board against Farah in 1970 for unfair labor practices.

Meanwhile, Farah was being helped by its sympathizers. During the strike, the Pentagon cancelled its contracts with other pants-makers for sales to Army PXs and gave them to Farah instead. Similarly, the Pentagon increased its purchases of lettuce and grapes in an apparant attempt to smash the United Farm Workers strike and boycott.

But finally on January 28, 1974, the National Labor Relations Board ordered Farah to rehire striking workers and permit union organization. The NLRB decision criticized Farah's "lawless ways," and its "trampling on the rights of its employees as if there was no act, no board and no Ten Commandments."

However, even in light of the Board's ruling the February 24 settlement was a surprise. According to the Wall St. Journal, pressure from El Paso businessmen to resolve the situation had been growing recently. Possibly, they feared that Farah would close its El Paso plants, severely damaging the city's economy. Fred Hervey, mayor of El Paso, suggested that an unofficial company-wide poll on union representation be conducted among the strikers, the laid-

******CONTINUED ON INSIDE FRONT COVER*******

MEXICAN FEDERAL POLICE BREAK-UP PEOPLE'S LAND TAKEOVER AFTER 3 MONTH OCCUPATION

TIJUANA, Mexico (LNS) -- More than 3,000 squatters were forcibly evicted from government land they occupied since October 30th. The Governor of the Mexican state of Baja California ordered Federal police to remove the squatters on January 30th. According to sources close to the situation, many of those evicted from the squatters colonia, named by its residents Tierra y Libertad (Land and Liberty), were relocated in areas where food, shelter or water were provided.

The decision by the Mexican government to call in federal police to forcibly evict the colonos (people who live in the colonia) followed a series of incidents initiated by the government the day before. At that time Tijuana police raided the colonia and arrested a number of people whom Tijuana officials had labeled as "leaders." Others in the colonia responded immediately by seizing two policemen, two reporters, three buses, a Squirt soft drink truck, and several cars. They offered to release the hostages if Tijuana authorities agreed to free those arrested and allow the squatters to continue to build their community on the seized land.

Instead of entering into negotiations, the Tijuana officials appealed to Milton Castellanos, governor of Baja California, who mobilized the federal police. Within 24 hours all the residents were evicted, all housing destroyed and additional arrests made.

Among those arrested were two students from the University of California at San Diego who had done a number of interviews and photographed the colonia. They were initially charged with being "international agitators" but later were merely fined $24. It is believed that the initial strong charges were to discourage other students from the U.S. from getting involved in battles over the poor living conditions of many Mexicans.

The takeover began on October 30 when students from the Universidad Autonoma de Baja California seized 150 acres of government-owned land adjacent to the school and sealed off a major road crossing the land. The action came about a year after students had asked the government to provide land to expand the university--a request the Mexican government has not yet responded to.

Soon after the initial takeover, the students were joined by 150 Mexican families who had been recently evicted from their homes in the Tijuana River Valley area to make room for a canal. At the time of their eviction, the families were promised free housing in another section of Tijuana. Instead, they were moved into inadequate plywood structures for which the government charged them $20 a month rent.

Since $20 a month was way beyond what most of the families could pay, 150 of them decided to move onto the student occupied land. The students and families reached an agreement whereby 40 acres of the land was to be used for additional university space and the rest for a housing development.

Quickly, Tierra y Libertad grew to over 3,000 people, most of whom were fleeing the inadequate housing offered by the Mexican government. In Tijuana, for example, about 130,000 people live in rented shacks under highly unsanitary conditions.

In the three months that they held the land, the squatters built two schools, a store from which food was distributed, a small clinic, streets and access roads. All of these were built collectively in people's free time, and on what became known as "communal Sundays." At the time of the eviction, plans were being made to build water reservoirs and bring electricity and other necessities to the colonia. Early in the occupation, information brigades distributed leaflets and collected donations in downtown Tijuana and neighboring areas.

Supporters of the colonos point out that the proposed canal that displaced the people living in the Tijuana River Valley will connect with another canal being built on the U.S. side of the border. Such an improvement in transportation is expected to attract U.S. corporate investments to the areas bordering the proposed canal. Already, the U.S. government had lent the Mexican government about 100 million dollars to build the canal.

Attracted by the cheap labor available in Mexico, a number of U.S. firms have already built runaway shops in Tijuana and other border cities. Compared to the prevailing wages in the U.S., the $30 a week minimum wage for a 48 hour work week in Mexico is very attractive.

At the beginning of the takeover, the local government hesitated to act because local elections were approaching and no one wanted to risk their political life. Then, as the number of squatters grew to over the 3,000 mark, it became clear that the local police force would not be enough to clear the occupied land. After an extensive propaganda campaign against the squatters in the local media failed, authorities tried arresting the most active colonios. This lead to the seizure of hostages and finally the forcible eviction.

According to sources close to the takeover, even though the squatters were "relocated" in different areas, a clandestine committee that functioned in the colonia is continuing its organizing for future actions. A reporter who visited Tierra y Libertad stated that "things would probably flare up in a month or two."

In the meantime, on the day after the colonios were evicted, over 100 people demonstrated in front of the Mexican consulate in San Diego demanding that those arrested be released and that the Mexican government recognize the right of the colonos to live on the land. Two days later, about 150 people demonstrated at the Tijuana border with the same demands.

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Your March bills should be arriving shortly. Please try to send us something (plus a little extra) as soon as you get your bill. Thanks, LNS.

U.S. BLOCKS PRG PRESENCE AT GENEVA CONFERENCE ON WAR CRIMES

LIBERATION News Service

PARIS (LNS)--The Provisional Revolutionary Government (PRG) of South Vietnam sharply criticized the United States on February 21 for applying direct pressure which has prevented the PRG from participating in an international conference on humanitarian law currently being held in Geneva, Switzerland. The conference, which began on February 20 and will continue until the end of March, is an important meeting of nations that will attempt to up-date the 1949 Geneva Conventions on human rights under war-time conditions.

Through Duong Dinh Thao, their press representative in Paris, the PRG noted that as "one of the signers of the Paris Agreement on Vietnam" the United States recognizes "the existence in South Vietnam of two administrations (Saigon and PRG), two armies, and two zones of control." Ignoring this fact, U.S. representatives to the conference of 130 nations threatened to withdraw unless the Saigon regime be the only representative of South Vietnam. Under this pressure, the Swiss government agreed to deny the PRG representatives entrance visas.

The PRG--as a government recognized by the twelve countries that signed the Paris Agreement--has every legal right to attend the conference, Thao pointed out. "By arrogantly demanding that the Saigon administration be the only representative of South Vietnam," he said, "the United States has acted in violation of international law and of the reality."

Thao added that "This demand only further unmasks their aim of using the Saigon administration to pursue their neo-colonialist policies and to sabotage the Paris Agreement and peace in South Vietnam."

It is clear that the United States would want to bar PRG representatives from a conference discussing war crimes, according to Thao, because of the "fear of being condemned by the South Vietnamese people for its crimes." More important, perhaps, is the fact that the conference is to deal with the changing nature of wars--the fact that they are now less likely to be fought between "great powers" but rather as wars in which "great powers" try to put down wars of national liberation.

The Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV), which is represented at the conference, has indicated that they will make this a major point. A recent article in the DRV Army Journal pointed to the need to establish international law applying to "wars between imperialist powers and peoples aspiring to national liberation."

Similarly, a December issue of Vietnam Courier contained an article which noted that "world history since the end of the second world war has been marked by the upsurge of the movements of national liberation." The article notes that "the interventions of the imperialist powers against the peoples striving to be free has taken the most diverse forms; long wars have been imposed on these peoples." And, the article warns, "it is certain that the imperialist powers will not hesitate to launch new wars to safeguard their interests in the Third World." -30-

[Thanks to Schofield Coryell in Paris for this info]

[See packet #571 for background on the coup]

GREEK JUNTA INCREASES ARRESTS; REOPENS CONCENTRATION CAMPS FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS

ATHENS (LNS)--The Greek military junta has stepped up its repression of dissidents with a new wave of mass arrests. Police arrested thirty-five leading members of the Communist Party, the Communist Youth Organization and the National Student Union on Wednesday, February 20. Since then, according to the U.S. Communist Party paper, the Daily World, over 200 more people--mostly students and workers--have been arrested and jailed in Athens, Salonika and other Greek cities.

The junta recently announced it was reopening two concentration camps on the islands of Leros and Anafi, in addition to one that they had reopened earlier on the island of Youra--internationally known as a death camp several years ago.

The prison camps had been closed under the previous military dictatorship of President George Papadoupoulos, after that regime's widespread tortures of political prisoners were exposed by such organizations as Amnesty International and the International Red Cross.

Last November, massive demonstrations against the Papadoupoulos regime (which had toppled the Parliamentary government under George Papandreou in a U.S.-backed military coup in 1967) resulted in a new military junta, which has turned out to be at least as repressive as the regime it replaced.

Although at the time the international press reported that only 13 people died in the November uprising, it is now known that at least 400 people were killed and a minimum of 1000 wounded. The existence of mass graves has been reported in two army camp locations near Athens. A Greek employee of the U.S. embassy now in this country has declared that he personally counted 360 bodies in the Athens morgue, most of them casualties during the November demonstrations. And about 300 people are still missing.

Parents of missing people are reportedly told such things by the police as "If you value the life of your live ones, don't talk about your dead one," and "When people ask what happened to your child, say he died of an auto accident."

Students from the University of Athens have been involved in a general boycott of classes since January 18. In a recent statement translated in Liberation, a radical French daily, the student strike committee said that the boycott is to protest the killings as well as "the deportations, manhunts and the measures of intimidation put into effect by the junta."

Their demands include the repeal of martial law in effect since November, and political and trade union freedom.

The boycott committee reported that so far 12 students and one assistant faculty member have been arrested for participating in the boycott. The Minister of Education has circulated notices asking faculty members to take down the names of students

March 2, 1974 more....

who don't appear in their classes or for exams.

Student support of the boycott seems to be widespread. According to one report, not one student from the Engineering School showed up to take the first semester exams on February 3.

The present junta, like the former, supports U.S. interests in Greece--the most important of which is maintaining of thirteen major U.S. nuclear, air, naval and intelligence bases there. In recent years Greece has become the key staging area for American control in the Eastern Mediterranean and a strategic position for possible U.S. intervention in the Middle East.

According to Andreas Papandreou, leader of the Panhellenic Liberation Movement and a former minister in the pre-1967 government the November junta was a result of a plan of Papadoupoulos to "liberalize" his regime. After having subjected the Greek people to six years of severe repression, he suddenly granted amnesty to political prisoners and gave a certain amount of freedom to the press, which had been muzzled since 1967.

The plan backfired, however. Instead of gaining public acceptance for his new liberal facade, the press unleashed its long pent up criticisms of the Papadoupoulos regime, and students, workers, peasants and professionals started to mobilize in protests throughout the country. By the end of September, both Papadopoulos and Nixon knew they were in trouble.

"The final blow came with the popular uprising of mid-November,: Papandreou writes. "The regime overreacted, conducted a massacre, and became thoroughly discredited....Papadopulos had to go."

Apparently, the U.S. forces behind Papadopoulos felt that "throwing Papadopoulos to the wolves--in this case allowing him his freedom at his Onassis villa on the Attica sea coast--would also momentarily placate the anger of the people and hopefully persuade them that ...a change had occurred."

According to Papandreou, there was no change. "The 'coup d'etat' of November 25 constitutes simply a change of guard. The new junta is merely a portion of the old one...

"In accordance with the wishes of the CIA, the post of Prime Minister was given to its trusted instrument, Chicago lawyer Adamandios Androutsoppulos ....Brigadier Dimitrios Ioannides is the strong man of the new six-man junta. The head of the feared military police (ESA) and a well-known torturer, he is dedicated to serving American policies blindly ....Equally committed to U.S. control of Greece and to direct military rule is general Bonanos, chief of the Greek Armed Forces."

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(Thanks to Papandreou's article "Greece: The November Uprising" in the February issue of Monthly Review, and to the Daily World for much of this information.)

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MARCH BILLS ARE ON THE WAY AND WE STILL NEED MONEY. PLEASE HELP US AS BEST YOU CAN. THANKS, LNS

MITCHELL-STANS DEFENSE ASKS RADICAL SOCIAL SCIENTISTS FOR JURY SELECTION HELP

NEW YORK (LNS)--Defense attorneys for former Attorney General John Mitchell and former Secretary of Commerce Maurice Stans attempted recently to hire the group of radical social scientists that has helped to select favorable juries in cases brought against radicals by the Nixon adminstration.

Mitchell and Stans are currently on trial, charged with conspiracy, obstruction of justice and perjury for agreeing to halt an investigation of financier Robert Vesco, in exchange for a secret contribution to Nixon's 1972 campaign fund.

The group of social scientists has successfully aided the defense in the Harrisburg, Pa. trial of seven activists accused of conspiring to kidnap Henry Kissinger; the trial of the Camden 28; and the Gainesville, Fla. trial of eight Vietnam Veterans Against the War/Winter Soldier Organization members accused of plotting an assault on the 1972 Republican National Convention.

The group tries to find juries who would be least authoritarian and most open-minded. To do this, they make surveys of a representative cross-section of the population that might be called for jury selection and find correlations between attitudes and variables such as age, sex, neighborhood, race, religion, occupation and country of origin.

When lawyers for Maurice Stans got in touch with the group, one member, Jay Schulman, immediately declined to work for the former administration officials. According to the New York Times, another member, Richard Christie, was interested.

"Even John Mitchell deserves a fair trial," said Christie. However, he set two conditions in his negotiations with the lawyers. The first was that any fee would be turned over to the Wounded Knee Defense Committee .

Secondly Christie said in effect that he would attempt to pick a fair jury but not necessarily a winning one.

"I told them I would be willing to identify among the prospective jurors those that were not fair and impartial. But I would not say which way they were biased," he said.

Christie said that Stan's lawyers told him they would call him back, but told him a few days later that the deal was off.

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LOW-COST PET STERILIZATION--"SOCIALIZED MEDICINE?"

WASHINGTON (LNS)--The Washington Star News reported recently that a proposal by the Montgomery County (Maryland) Council to establish a low-cost pet sterilization clinic to prevent unwanted animals caused quite a stir. The County Veterinary Medical Association called the proposal "the first step in socialized medicine....an attack on free enterprise and unfair competition by the government."

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[Thanks to the Washington Monthly for this short]

[Note to Editors: See packet #561 for related story.]

PROGESTOGEN-ONLY BIRTH CONTROL PILLS FOUND TO CAUSE "UNUSUALLY HIGH" RATE OF TUBAL PREGNANCIES

LIBERATION News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. (LNS)--A leading medical journal reported in February an "unusually high" rate of tubal or ectopic pregnancies in women using birth control pills consisting entirely of a progestogen.

The rate, two out of 100 users per year, is 12 times higher than in women relying on Intrauterine devices (IUDs) and a reported 8 times higher than in women who use no form of contraception.

The most popular brands of such pills in the United States include Norlutin (norethindrone), made by Parke-Davis, and Depo-Provera (medroxyprogesterone acetate), made by Upjohn.

Depo-Provera's active ingredient was the primary one in Uphohn's oral contraceptive Provest, which was banned by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in 1970 after beagles given the pills developed breast cancer. It was also said to "present the risk of permanent infertility."

Despite these findings, the FDA approved the drug for "limited prescription use" last October "to meet the demonstrable need" of a small portion of women who "cannot reliably use other forms of contraception". This decision virtually sanctioned the use of poor women as guinea pigs.

Besides the riks of permanent sterility and breast cancer, side effects of Depo-Provera include dizziness, irritability, nervousness, headaches, backaches, spotting or heavy uterine bleeding, no menstral periods, rashes and skin sensitivity, and severe mental depression.

According to the Washington Post, the incidence of tubal pregnancies of the progestogen-only pills was reported in the February 2 issue of The Lancet by Dr. John Bonnar, an obstetrician-gynecologist.

Bonnar has been conducting clinical trials of the contraceptives at John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, England for the past two years. He said that four women developing the tubal pregnancies were among 200 young women who had taken .35 milligrams daily of norethisterone (ethisterone in the United States) under the British tradenames of Noriday or Micronor.

Each victim developed a tubal pregnancy within four months to a year, accompanied by a rupture in one case and severe intra-abdominal bleeding in another.

"A delay in diagnosis of 7-14 days was a feature of all the cases described," writes Bonnar. "The fact that the patient was taking an oral contraceptive was considered to go against the diagnosis of tubal pregnancy."

The cases are complicated further because the known side-effects of progestogen-only pills--spotting and breakthrough bleeding, lengthening of the menstrual cycle, and short periods of abnormal stoppage of menstrual periods--are also symptoms of tubal pregnancy.

Terming the findings "alarming", Dr. Sydney M. Wolfe, director of the Health Research Group asked the Food and Drug Administration to release all data in its files on progestogen-only pills sold in the United States,and on tubal pregnancies.

In a letter to FDA commissioner Alexander M. Schmidt, Wolfe said, "If there is an increased evidence...there should be adequate warnings to avoid the serious, sometimes fatal consequences of undiagnosed tubal pregnancy."

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WILLIAM CALLEY RELEASED ON $1000 BAIL; SEC.OF ARMY AND NIXON STILL TO REVIEW CASE

COLUMBUS, Ga.(LNS)--Lieut. William L. Calley, convicted by a military court of the murder, in 1968, of at least 22 Vietnamese civilians in what has become known as the "My Lai Massacre," was released February 27 on a personal bond of $1,000 by order of a civilian judge.

Calley had spent the last 35 months in rather privileged circumstances for a prisoner convicted of murdering 22 people-- house arrest in a rented, two-bedroom apartment in Fort Benning, Ga. Although Calley drew 20 years for the murders, President Nixon himself ordered that he be upt under house arrest pending appeals. During that time he was allowed to leave the house several times.

In addition, Calley was permitted frequent visits from his girl-friend,Anne Moore, who testified on his behalf at his bond hearing.

Calley's 20-year sentence is to be reviewed by the Secretary of the Army and President Nixon has also said that he will make a final review of the case.

Said U.S. District Judge J. Robert Elliot in granting the unusually low bond:

"Since it is uncertain when these reviews will be completed, it is possible that he will be confined for a longer period than would have been required under the terms of his sentences, as it may eventually be reduced."

The judge also pointed to the "similarities" between the Calley case and that of Captain Howard Levy, an anti-war Army doctor, whose conviction by a military court was ultimately reversed by a civilian court. Levy was convicted on charges stemming from his refusal to train medical corpsmen for duty in Vietnam. Levy served 2 years in Federal prison before Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas granted him bail pending a hearing on a petition for a writ of habeas corpus.

"The only difference which I can observe in the position of Lieutenant Calley as compared to that of Captain Levy," said Judge Elliot, "is that Captain Levy was convicted for refusal to perform a military duty, whereas Lieutenant Calley's conviction arose from his willing service in the armed forces."

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[See packet #582 for background on FBI's COINTELPRO operation.]

SUIT FORCES FBI RELEASE OF DOCUMENTS ON PLAN TO DISRUPT SOCIALST WORKERS PARTY

NEW YORK(LNS)-- In response to a lawsuit filed last July by the Socialist Workers Party (SWP), the Federal government has made public some information about their surveillance activities against the SWP. This is the second group of documents concerning FBI activities against the left which has been released after a court suit in the last 2 months.

In December, responding to a suit filed by NBC newsman Carl Stern, a Federal court ordered the FBI to release documents which admit an extensive three-year program by the Federal agency to "disrupt and otherwise neutralize the activities of the various New Left organizations, their leadership and adherents." The disruption campaign was termed by the FBI "Counterintelligence Program" or COINTELPRO.

The newly released documents give some detail on the COINTELPRO operations that were directed against the SWP. In a memo released as a result of the Stern suit, seven areas of activity were listed, one of which was called "Socialist Workers Party--Disruption Programs." Other COINTELPRO operations included intelligence activities against "The New Left," "The Communist Party, USA," and "Black Extremists," as well as the broader categories listed simply as "espionage" and "Counterintelligence and special operations."

According to the documents, the "SWP disruption program" was initiated on October 12, 1961 "to alert the public to the nature and activities of SWP and thus to neutralize the SWP." According to the documents, the FBI furnished the information it acquired "to appropriate law enforcement agents" as well as providing what it termed "pertinent information regarding objectives and activities of the SWP" to the news media.

In addition, the memos admit that FBI agents "furnished information concerning nature and activities of SWP and YSA [the SWP youth affiliate] to organizations and individuals associated with SWP, YSA or their members." According to lawyers for the Political Rights Defense Fund, who are handling the suit, this often amounted to FBI agents approaching employers or associates of people connected with the SWP and informing them that there was an FBI investigation into the person's "subversive activities."

The operation against the SWP was discontinued in April, 1972, along with other COINTELPRO programs following public disclosure of FBI documents taken from the FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania, which detailed the operations. The government has made it clear that they will fight any attempt to release more documents on the matter, saying that such a request "may be subject to a formal claim of executive privilege."

In response to a seperate suit filed on behalf of 16-year old high school student Lori Paton, the government has admitted that they had imposed a three-month "mail cover" on the SWP national office, monitoring all first class mail. In a "mail cover," surveillance consists of noting the sources and destinations of all incoming and outgoing mail to a particular address.

In a letter from then-acting FBI Director L. Patrick Gray to the assistant Postmaster General, Gray asked that "confidential arrangements" be made "to institute a mail cover on the National headquarters of the Socialist Workers Party, 410 West Street, New York, New York 10014, for a period of 120 days."

Gray admitted that he was instructing the mail cover even though "there is no indictment pending" against the SWP or anyone working the the New York office or living at the stated address. Gray asked that "the results of the mail cover be forwarded to Andrew J. Decker, Special Agent in Charge, Security Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, 201 East 69th Street, New York, New York 10021."

In February, 1973, Lori Paton had written to the New York SWP office in connection with a school project she was working on. Her letter was intercepted by the FBI and the agency then launched an elaborate investigation to see if Paton was involved in any "subversive activities." Paton's lawyers note, however, that the FBI investigation was more designed to harass her and her family and to attach a stigma of "FBI investigation" to her name, than to acquire information.

The lawyers point out that instead of visiting her home, the FBI agent on the case went to the local Credit Bureau, the police department and finally to her high school. In addition, the agent instructed FBI "informants" to keep an eye on her.

FBI agents working on the case have testified under oath that they investigated Paton because she was involved in "subversive activity." Asked by one of Paton's lawyers to "define what subversive activity is in the eyes of the Federal Bureau of Investigation," an agent on the case replied "The fact that she was in contact with the Socialist Workers Party." Moreover, explained the agent, as a result of her filing the suit against the FBI, "her name would also be put on an index cared in Washington at the Bureau headquarters."

The SWP's $27 million suit against Nixon and other government officials seeks a permanent injunction against harassment, wiretapping, burglary, mail tampering, infiltration and operation of illegal government disruption plans. The suit's defense team is also fighting the government's refusal to release documents detailing completely the extent of the disruption activities conducted against left groups.

* * *

For more information, contact: Political Rights Defense Fund, P.O.Box 649, Cooper Station, New York, New York, 10003; or phone (212) 691-3270.

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NIXON ON VOTING

"Simply to allow Americans to vent their hatred as they vote for Nixon...that isn't enough."

-- October 18, 1968

(He's right-- let's impeach him!)

55 HOSPITAL WORKERS ACQUITTED ON CHARGES RESULTING FROM UNION ORGANIZING DRIVE

WASHINGTON (LNS)--On Friday, February [illegible], fifty five hospital workers from George Washington University Hospital in Washington DC were unanimously acquitted on charges of "unlawful entry". The charges stemmed from a sit-down staged last fall in an effort to meet with hospital administrators about holding a union election.

Workers in voluntary hospitals are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). Therefore, they have to depend on their own solidarity and militancy rather than governmental regulations, to guarantee their right to unionize.

George Washington University is the second largest employer in the city, next to the Federal Government. The bargaining unit which Union 1199 Drug and Hospital Workers seeks at the hospital includes the nursing service from licensed practical nurses down, including technicians, secretaries, central services and clerks.

Last November 30, over 200 black and white workers occupied the hospital lobby, chanting and singing union songs. The hospital administrators called the police and had many of the workers thrown in jail. Those arrested have been out on their personal bond since then. By the next week, 24 workers had been fired and 45 were suspended for five years without pay and without a hearing.

The jury trial for those arrested began on Wednesday, February 20. A jury of 11 blacks and one white was selected that morning. The prosecution had tried to offer the hospital workers a "compromose" of pleading guilty to lesser charges, but they voted unanimously not to accept, believing they were not guilty of anything and would be able to convince the jury.

According to the Daily Rag, a Washington alternative paper, Assistant U.S. Attorney Michael Pace's opening remarks implied that it was a cut-and-dried legal issue: whether or nor the defendants were at the hospital that day, whether they were asked to leave the premises by someone who was legally in charge and whether they did or did not leave.

But the lawyer for the defense, Norman Blumenfeld, made it clear that the case involved much broader issues. In his opening statement Blumenfeld said: "For 18 months workers at GW Hospital had been organizing for better patient care, better working conditions and higher wages.

"We will present evidence to show that these employees tried to meet with their employer, and that he refused to hold a discussion with them."

The lawyer then pointed out that after the administration refused a union offer to have a third party review the 500-600 union cards [out of 800 employees] signed by the employees, the workers decided to hold a meeting in the hospital lobby shortly before lunch on November 30. They wanted to meet with Donald C. Novak, the hospital administrator, to discuss their grievances.

They asked to speak to Mr. Novak, but a security guard told them to go back to work. When they said they wouldn't leave until they saw Mr. Novak, the security guard went to get the police.

Defense attorney Blumenfeld stated "that they would have gone back to work if Mr. Novak had come and met with a delegation of the workers and a union representative.

"In short, these workers were arrested while they attempted to see their boss," he continued. "They had a reasonable belief that they had a right to be there, in their own place of business."

Asst. Atty. General Pace relied heavily on the testimony of a registered nurse who said "an awful noise" was bothering people in the operating room.

Yet, the employees who were in and out of the operating room testified that there was "no noise or disruptions in the operating room." In fact, it was pointed out that the demonstrators had chosen an area, the hospital lobby, that wouldn't disrupt patient care.

Pace said to the jury of 11 blacks and one white, "You have heard it testified that the defendants sang the song 'We Shall Overcome.' We shall overcome, we shall overcome, we shall overcome. This is a hymn from the civil rights movement." He continued, "This is a song associated with Martin Luther King. Did you ever see Martin Luther King demonstrate in a hospital, and was not his cause greater than theirs?"

But no one on the jury needed to be reminded that Dr. King was murdered during the midst of a labor struggle in Memphis. Also, Coretta King is the honorary chairwoman of 1199. The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the organization Dr. King was involved in, had worked closely with 1199 in the first big hospital workers strike in Charleston, S.C. several years ago. Dr. King once said, "1199 is my favorite union."

At the end of the trial, an alternate juror who sat through it said, "By God, what was the government trying to do--I'm so mad I didn't get a chance to vote. If I had,it would have been 13-0."

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(Thanks to the Daily Rag and Southern Patriot for this information.)

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MERRILL LYNCH GIVES OUT POINTS FOR SEXISM IN ITS ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

NEW YORK(LNS)--Applicants for the position of account executive at Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, the largest stock brokerage company in the United States take an evaluation examination which asks which qualities in a woman are most important. According to the Wall Street Journal, an answer of "dependency" or "affectionateness" wins the applicant two points. "Beauty scores one point, and the job seeker who answers "intelligence" or "independence "gains no points.

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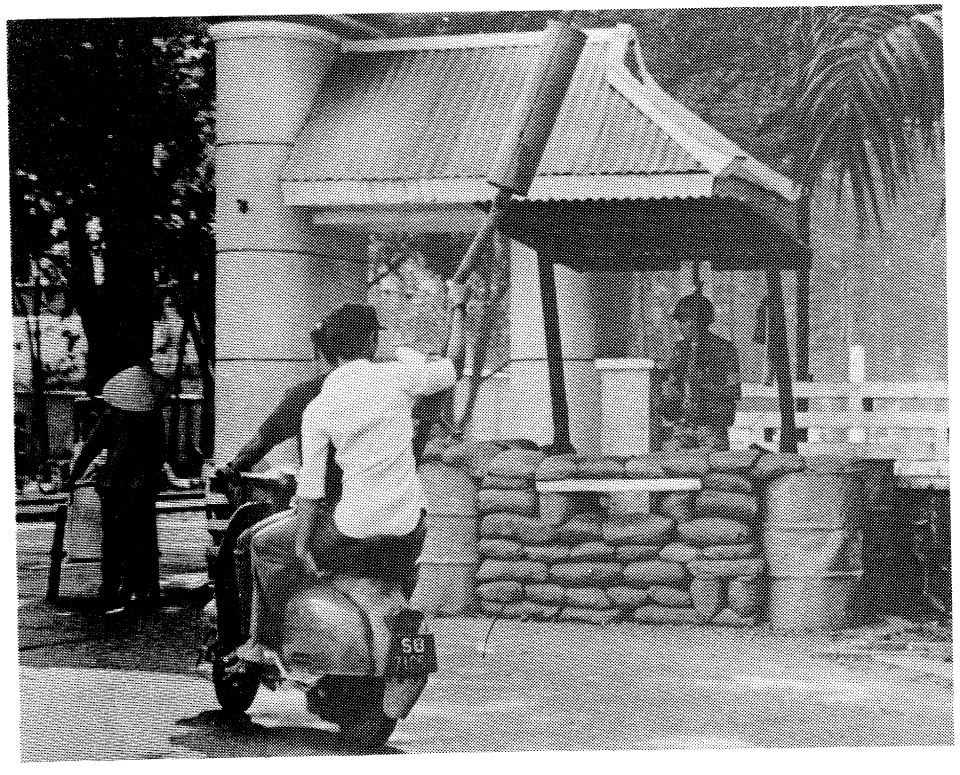
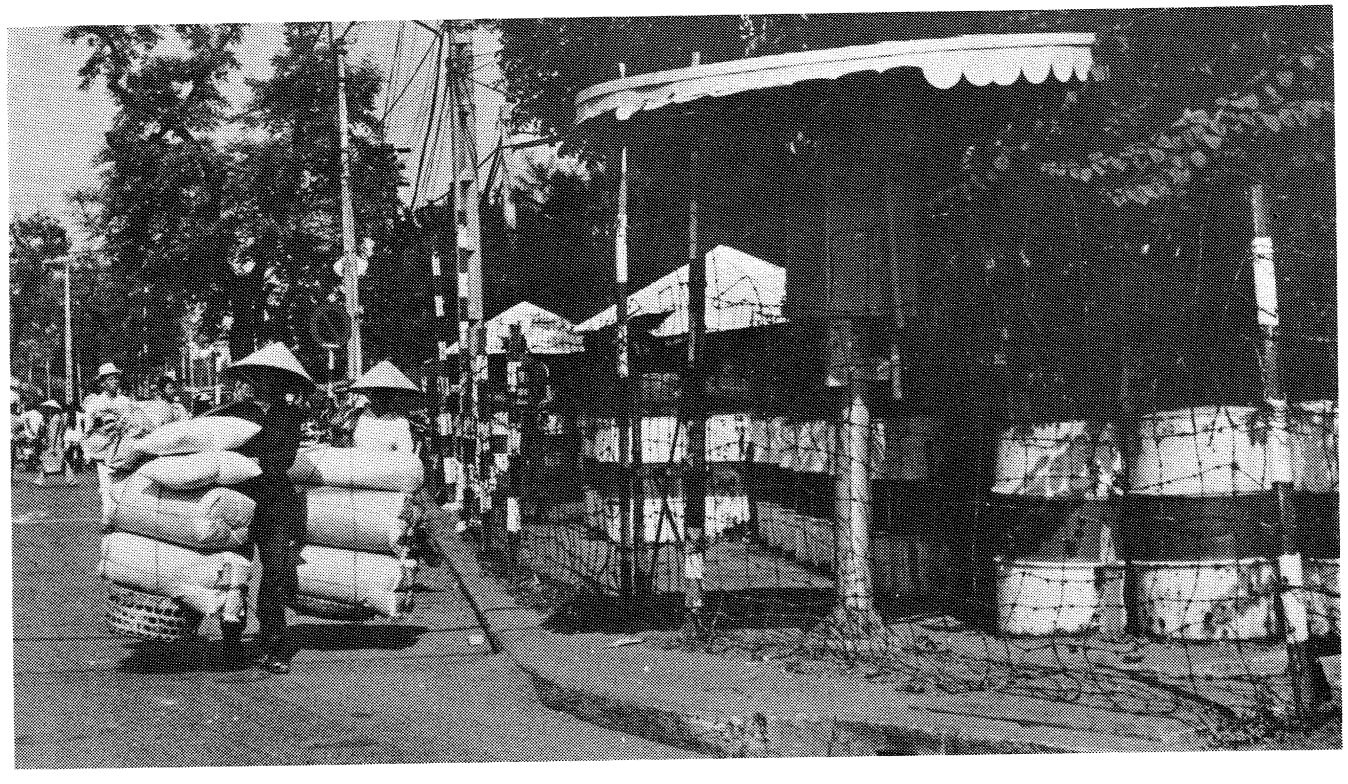




PHÒNG THUỐC NÚI
TRỊ BỊNH TRẺ
CHÂN CHẤT PHƯỚC THIỆN

NHÂN DÂN MIỀN NAM QUYẾT-TÂM:
KHÔNG
- BÁN LÚA GẠO CHO CỘNG-SẢN
- NUÔI DƯỠNG HẠ TẦNG CƠ-SỞ CỘNG-SẢN
- DỰ CỘNG SẢN TẤU ĐIỂN XÂM LĂNG

[illegible] street [illegible] with a sign that
[illegible] reads:
[illegible] determined to
[illegible] nists
[illegible] against [illegible] communists
[illegible] again

This [illegible] the story [illegible] page [illegible]
[illegible] Werner/LNS

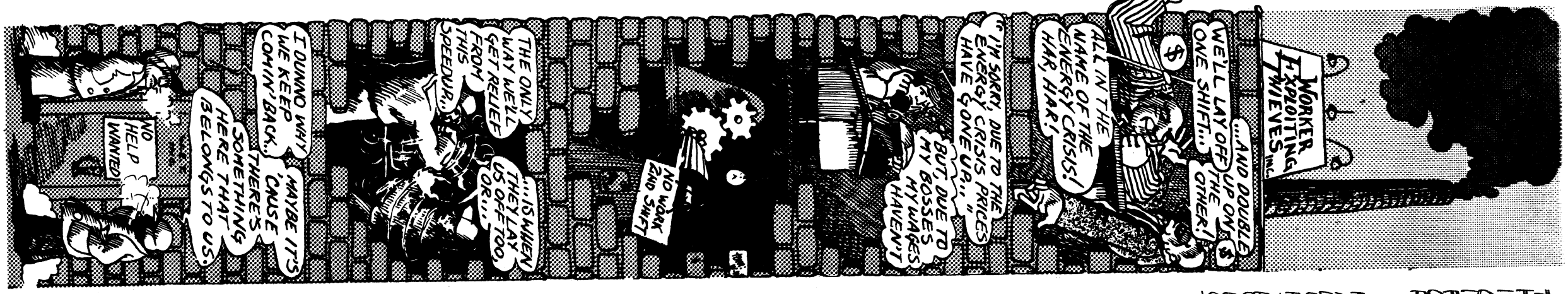
TOP LEFT: People passing fortified
police post in Saigon. Barbed wire
and police with rifles are all over
Saigon.
This goes with story on page 1.
CREDIT: Jayne Werner/LNS

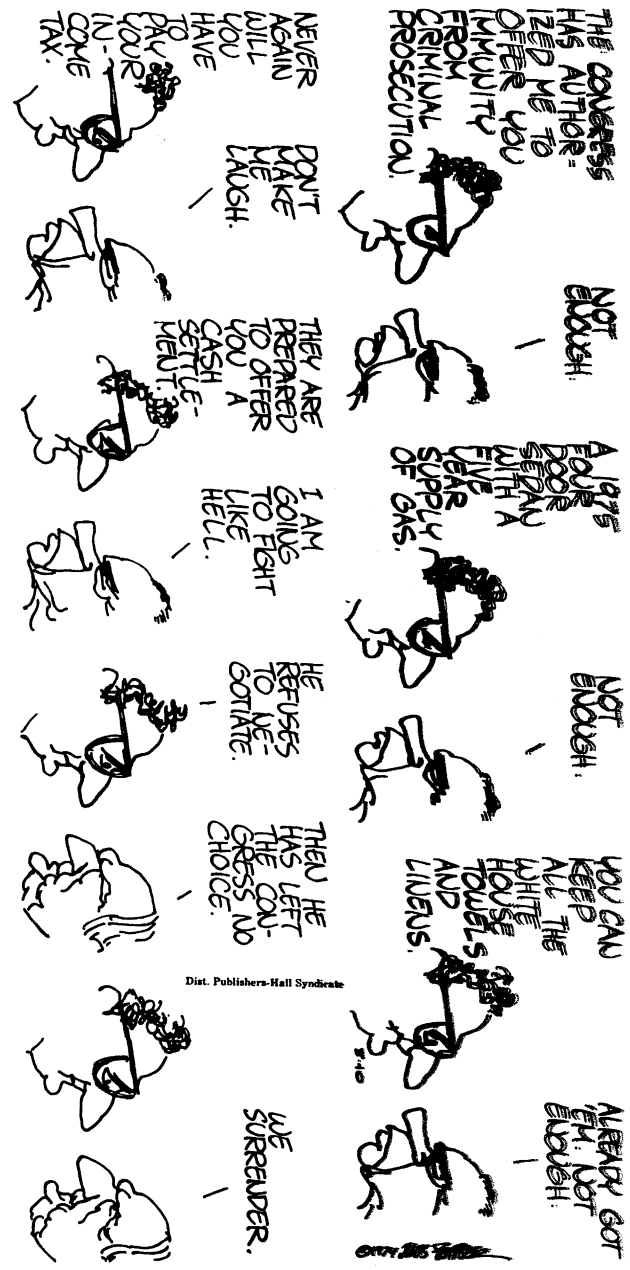
[illegible]

The packet number on the front side is wrong. It should be #593.

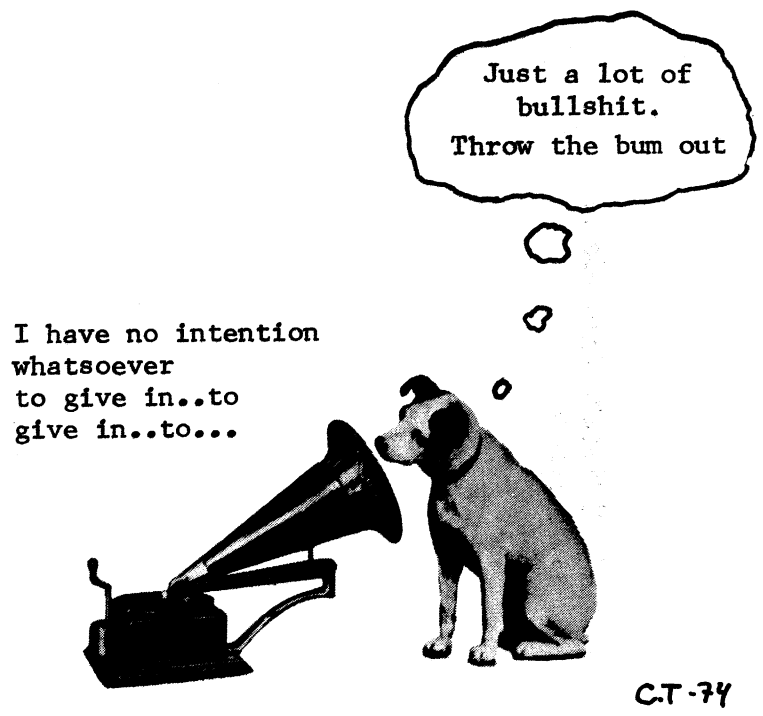
BOTTOM RIGHT: Women scavenging through garbage
pile on le Van Duyet Street, Saigon.
This goes with story on page 1.
CREDIT: Jayne Werner/LNS

BOTTOM LEFT: Men riding Honda past Saigon
police. Police with rifles, sandbags
and barbed wire are common all over Saigon.
This goes with the story on page 1.
CREDIT: Jayne Werner/LNS


WORKER EXPLOITING THIEVES INC.
...AND DOUBLE UP ON WE'LL LAY OFF ONE SHIFT... THE OTHER!
ALL IN THE NAME OF THE ENERGY CRISIS! HAR, HAR!
"I'M SORRY, DUE TO THE ENERGY CRISIS PRICES HAVE GONE UP..."
"BUT, DUE TO MY BOSSES MY WAGES HAVEN'T
NO WORK 2ND SHIFT
THE ONLY WAY WE'LL GET RELIEF FROM THIS SPEEDUP...
...IS WHEN THEY LAY US OFF TOO, OR...
I DUNNO WHY WE KEEP COMIN' BACK...
MAYBE IT'S 'CAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING HERE THAT BELONGS TO US.
NO HELP WANTED


THE CONGRESS HAS AUTHORIZED ME TO OFFER YOU IMMUNITY FROM CRIMINAL PROSECUTION.
NEVER AGAIN WILL YOU HAVE TO PAY YOUR IN-COME TAX.
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH.
NOT ENOUGH.
THEY ARE PREPARED TO OFFER YOU A CASH SETTLE-MENT.
A 1975 FOUR DOOR SEDAN WITH A FIVE YEAR SUPPLY OF GAS.
I AM GOING TO FIGHT LIKE HELL.
NOT ENOUGH.
HE REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE.
YOU CAN KEEP ALL THE WHITE HOUSE TOWELS AND LINENS.
THEN HE HAS LEFT THE CONGRESS NO CHOICE.
Dist. Publishers-Hall Syndicate
ALREADY GOT 'EM. NOT ENOUGH.
WE SURRENDER.

GREECE


Just a lot of bullshit. Throw the bum out
I have no intention whatsoever to give in..to give in..to...
C.T-74

LEFT CREDIT:.WORKERS WORLD/LNS

MIDDLE RIGHT:CREDIT: Christer Themptander/LNS

BOTTOM RIGHT:CREDIT: PEOPLE'S WORLD/LNS